

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**COMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-20 : (Canceled)

Claim 21 : (New) A portable instrument for electro-optically reading coded indicia over an extended range of working distances, comprising:

a) a housing having a size and a shape configured to be held in a user's hand during reading;

b) a plurality of electrical and optical components supported by the housing, for directing a light beam along an optical path toward the indicia for reflection therefrom and for detecting light reflected from the indicia over a field of view, one of the components being movable between first and second positions in which said one of the components is operative for optically modifying at least one of the light beam and the reflected light at first and second optical areas, respectively, another of the components being an actuatable scanner for scanning said at least one of the light beam and the field of view;

c) a manual actuator mounted on the housing for actuation and movement by the user, the actuator being mechanically connected to said one of the components and being operative for manually directly moving said one of the components along the optical path between the first and second positions during joint movement with the actuator to selectively optically modify said at least one of the light beam and the reflected light at the first and second optical areas,

respectively, the actuator being further operative for manually actuating the scanner to initiate reading; and

d) a resilient element engaged with, and compressed by movement of, said one of the components to one of the positions by the actuator, the element being operative for urging and restoring said one of the components to the other of the positions upon release of the actuator by the user.

Claim 22 : (New) The instrument of claim 21, wherein another of the components is a light source for emitting the light beam, and wherein said one of the components includes a focusing lens for focusing the light beam at the first and second optical areas located in the range outside the housing, the first and second optical areas being foci located at different working distances relative to the housing.

Claim 23 : (New) The instrument of claim 21, wherein another of the components is a light detector for detecting the reflected light, and wherein said one of the components includes a focusing lens for focusing at the detector the reflected light from the indicia respectively located at the first and second optical areas in the range outside the housing, the first and second optical areas being located at different working distances relative to the housing.

Claim 24 : (New) The instrument of claim 21, wherein another of the components is a light detector for detecting the reflected light and generating an electrical signal indicative thereof, and a processor for processing the electrical signal into a processed signal during reading, and a memory for storing the processed signal for downloading.

Claim 25 : (New) The instrument of claim 21, and further comprising a marking implement supported by the housing for marking a surface.

Claim 26 : (New) The instrument of claim 21, wherein said one of the components is operative in one of the positions for creating a visual display on a target in a pointing mode of operation.

Claim 27 : (New) The instrument of claim 21, wherein the resilient element is a foam block.

Claim 28 : (New) The instrument of claim 21, wherein the resilient element is constituted of a light-transmissive material through which the light beam passes.

Claim 29 : (New) The instrument of claim 21, and a holder in which said one of the components is held, and wherein the resilient element bears against the holder.

Claim 30 : (New) The instrument of claim 29, and wherein the trigger bears against the holder.

Claim 31 : (New) The instrument of claim 30, wherein the trigger is constituted of a light-transmissive material through which the light beam passes.

Claim 32 : (New) The instrument of claim 29, and a linear track along which the holder is guided during movement of said one of the components.

Claim 33 : (New) The instrument of claim 21, wherein the resilient element occupies a smaller volume of space when compressed.